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BUBBLETOP

Kellerman states in his testimony that Lawson called him in Fort Worth about 10:00 on the morning of the 22nd to ask specifically whether the bubbletop could come off.

Lawson states that Kellerman called him. Lawson does admit that he gave the final word to take off the bubbletop (which was on the car that morning). Lawson's lie, if it was that, was then not to hide the fact, which he could not, that he ordered the bubbletop off; but to conceal the fact that there was anxiety in Dallas as to whether they would be able to get the bubbletop off, that a special call was made to get permission to remove the bubbletop.

Kellerman thought the bubbletop might have made some difference. The assassins had to think of this too, there would have been glare, obscuring of target, deflection and a perfect record of the direction of the shots. I think they would have decided to wait had the bubbletop remained on. I think I can offer evidence to this effect.

Switch now to Marion Baker's testimony. You will find a blockbuster buried in it. Baker states that he and his partner (and as you will see two other officers) were scheduled to ride beside the President's car. It was not until about 5 to 10 minutes before the motorcade departed from Love Field that Baker received orders from his sergeant to fall back behind the press cars: putting these four officers way to hell and gene out of the way when the shots were fired.

Baker had gene into the office at 8 that morning. His orders were still to ride behind the car. There were eight officers scheduled to ride the President's car, four at the sides and four behind. (See Capt. Lawrence's assignment sheets). Capt. Lawrence testifies that it was a Secret Service Agent, whose name he doesn't say (it was Lawson as we see from police documents in the exhibits), who suggested that the four officers be pulled off the car, the sides of the car. The reason given to Lawrence for pulling the officers off the sides of the car was that it would enable the officers at the back of the car to rush up. Obviously there would be no need for them to rush up if officers were already at the sides of the car. Greer states in his testimony that it was customary for motorcycle officers to ride at the front and at the back of the President's car. But instead of moving the officers at the sides of the car up in front of it, they were removed from the vicinity of the car at all. Captain Lawrence states he got this information on the 21st and called his sergeants that night. Yet when Baker reported in at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 22nd his assignment was still to ride the sides of the car. His sergeant came and told him the assignment was changed only about 10 minutes before the motorcade left Love Field.

In other words the officers at the sides of the car were pulled off at the last minute, when it became plain that the President would in fact ride without the bubbletop. This shows one thing quite clearly: the assassins had control over the motorcycle escort.

And it shows a curious esprit de corps: they didn't want to shoot their buddies.

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